



Vintage Guitar[®] magazine

Gear Reviews

Hail-Able

The Bugera 212V-BK

If you've ever priced guitar cabinets, you know they can be an expensive proposition. The folks at Bugera (a Behringer company) know this and make all sorts of affordable tube heads, cabs, and combos for that purpose.

The 212V-BK is a simple, straightforward affair; you get a pair of Bugera 12" speakers in a straight-front cab rated at 140 watts. You can run it with pretty much any head or combo, 4- or 16-ohm in mono or 8-ohm in stereo (2 x 70 watts). For decoration, it has a black Tolex covering with a sparkly black/silver grillecloth, gold piping on the grille edges, and a script logo on the front. Its a vintage look falls somewhere between Marshall and Vox.

We tested the cab with a Fender Tele Thinline, Gibson ES-175, and Wechter Solid Body, as well as two tube heads – an 18-watt tube head and an Epiphone Valve Junior. On the front end were a couple of overdrives and fuzz pedals.

After a bit of jamming, it became apparent the Bugera could handle anything we threw at it. The tone was nice and full, without being tinny. The tube character of both heads shined, with the requisite sag and bloom from natural compression, but clear and punchy, too.

Part of Bugera's claim to fame is that their cabinets are solidly built, with touches like reinforced corners. True to form, there were no extraneous vibrations or rumbling; the cab



BUGERA 212V-BK

Price: \$393.99 (list)

Info: bugera-amps.com.

weighs 48 pounds, so you might consider casters or side-mount handles.

The 212V-BK is a very good cabinet. Tone junkies might want to drop in a

pair of Celestion greenbacks. But if you need a cab for club gigs or rehearsals and the requisite beating those often entail, this one should be ideal. – **Pete Prown VG**